**Public Water Access in Minnesota:**

The Minnesota DNR State Parks and Trails trail-water recreation program provides approximately 1,150 boat accesses (over 200 fishing areas and shore fishing sites), and manages 35 designated Water Trails in Minnesota. The DNR, Federal Government and local communities operate boat accesses. See the table on the right for specific site information. The DNR boating programs are funded by user fees including boat license and gas tax related to marine use. 

Public accesses are usually open 24 hours unless otherwise posted. Most sites have launch ramps but some, especially on smaller rivers, are carry in only. Bathrooms and docks are usually located only on the larger and better sites.

**Public Water Access Rules -** The launch area must be kept clear and the following activities are unlawful: littering, camping, shooting, building fires, and consuming alcoholic beverages. See Minnesota Rules, chapter 612B1 for complete rules.

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**Boating in Minnesota**

The annual Minnesota Boating Guide summarizes Minnesota’s boating laws and regulations in an easy-to-read format. The guide supplies information about operating onstate’s waters and lakes. Operator age restrictions apply to operators 17 years old and younger.

**Licensing -** All motorized and non-motorized watercraft must be licensed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Please contact the DNR License Bureau for information.

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**Fishing in Minnesota**

Fishing Regulations and Licensing - All persons 16 and older are required to have the appropriate license with them when fishing. Licenses are available through the DNR License Bureau, most County Auditors and many stores that sell fishing related goods. Trout fishing requires a trout stamp. For more information call the DNR information center at (811) 296-6157 or 1-888-dnr-2367. To purchase a license by phone 24 hours a day, call 1-888-MN-LICENSE (666-4236).

Selective Harvest Fishing - Improved technology and increased fishing have caused the quality of fishing to decline in many waters. Practicing “Selective Harvest” offers anglers an opportunity to take some fish home while releasing others into the water to improve fishing for the next generation. Some tips to use for effective Selective Harvest fishing:

- Use barbless hooks
- Play the fish quickly and handle the fish carefully
- Never hold the fish by the eyes
- Use a needle nose pliers to remove hooks or cut the line if it is too deep
- Ease the fish back into the water, do not throw it back

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**Sustainable Natural Environments**

Practice Sustainable Water Recreation! A healthy and attractive natural environment enables people to enjoy the outdoors without negative impacts on the environment. Communities working together can improve water resources by promoting environmentally sensitive land use practices along rivers and throughout the watershed.

- Be courteous to other boaters and water users
- Keep a reasonable distance from birds, wildlife
- Travel at safe speeds and be aware of the effect your wake has on the shoreline and other users
- Operate your watercraft at a slow no wake speed
- Use watercraft that is the appropriate type and size for the type of water resource
- Boating doesn’t require continuous movement; enjoy floating, anchoring, and beaching
- Conserve fuel by properly operating and maintaining your watercraft
- Don’t litter and do properly dispose of boat and sanitary wastes

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**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Laws and Requirements:**

Before leaving the water access or shoreline property, you MUST:

- Clean All aquatic plants and animals
- Drain all water including bilge, live wells, transom sumps, ballast tanks
- Dry the hull and keel
- Stop the engine and propeller
- Stop the motor and remove propeller
- Dry the boat and trailer for 24 hours
- Remove all attached aquatic plants, animals, and vegetation
- Do not remove or relocate aquatic plants, animals, or vegetation
- Use a needle nose pliers to remove or cut fishing lines from aquatic plants or animals

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**Watercraft Inspectors**

Watercraft Inspectors are here to ensure watercraft and equipment are “clean, in, clean!”. If you need assistance, have questions about the laws, or are curious about the program, please ask! Working Together to Protect the Waters

Watercraft Inspectors inspect every boat, fishing, and hunting boat arriving at your access for complete rules. A 1990 Minnesota rule requires watercraft inspectors to inspect every boat arriving at a public access. If there is a Decontamination Unit present, please follow the instructions given by the inspector, for your safety and theirs. Which type of inspection your access is subjected to is dependent on the time of day and season. Ways the Watercraft Inspectors can help you:

- The inspectors have tools, wrenches and pliers, so if you are having trouble with your plug, ask!
- If there are weeds that are hard to reach, inspectors can assist pull weeds off boats or other such tasks. They also have grabbing tools for plants

When you see the Watercraft Inspector, please cooperate. The law requires compliance with inspectors, and it will help everyone to be on their way in a timely and pleasant manner.

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**Safe Boating**

**Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) -** On all boats except sailboats regardless of length, there must be a readily accessible Coast Guard approved wearable PFD for each person on board. In addition, boats 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, the there must also be at least one Coast Guard approved throwable device such as a ring buoy or self- contained inflatable device. (PFD - Personal Flotation Device)

**Boating While Intoxicated (DWI) -** Boating while intoxicated is illegal. For persons found to be under the influence there are significant penalties, including fines and possible jail sentences.

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**Personal Watercraft -** Special laws apply including wearing a PFD and operating at slow no wake speed at certain distances from other watercraft, wade-ins and other objects in the water. Operator age restrictions also apply. Consult the Boating Guide for more information. A DNR safety video is available free of charge.

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**Public Water Access in Pine County**

**Water Body Name** | **Map Grid Location** | **Ramp Type** | **Fish Species** | **Administrator**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
Base Lake | C1 | concrete | C.L.B.N.S.W | DNR
Big Pine Lake | B1 | concrete | C.N.S.W | DNR
Croskey Lake | C4 | carry in | C.N.S.W | City
Diego Lake (E) | A3 | concrete | C.N.S.W | DNR
Diego Lake (W) | A3 | concrete | C.N.S.W | DNR
Grass Lake | C4 | carry in | C.N. | DNR
Gribble Lake | C1 | concrete | C.L.T.N.S.B.R.S.B.D.T | DNR
Gribble River (South Fork) | D2 | fishing pier | Various | DNR
Gribble River | C2 | earth | Various | DNR
Hay Creek Flowage | C5 | earth | C.N.S | DNR
Island Lake | A3 | concrete | C.L.B.N.S.W | DNR
Kerry 23 | B2 | gravel | Various | DNR
Morning Star Park | C2 | asphalt | Various | City
Robinson City Park | C2 | concrete | Various | City
St Croix | D2 | carry in | D.N | DNR
St Croix | D3 | carry in | D.N | DNR
Maple Island | D3 | carry in | D.N | DNR
Kennedy Brook | D3 | gravel | D.N | DNR
Muskegwood | A2 | carry in | Various | DNR
Long Lake | B2 | concrete | Various | Township
McCollum Lake | A3 | concrete | C.L.B.N.S | DNR
Oak Lake | A4 | concrete | C.L.B.N.S.W | DNR
Pickledale Lake | A4 | concrete | C.N.S | DNR
Pokegame Lake (N) | E1 | concrete | C.N.S.W | DNR
Pokegame Lake (S) | E1 | concrete | C.N.S.W | DNR
Pokegama Lake | E1 | concrete | C.N.S.W | DNR
Pokegama Lake (South) | E1 | concrete | C.N.S.W | DNR
Lilley’s Landing | E1 | gravel | Various | DNR
Cross Lake (W) | E2 | concrete | Various | DNR
Cross Lake (E) | E2 | concrete | Various | DNR
Stenton Lake | A2 | concrete | Various | DNR
Sturgeon Lake | A3 | concrete | C.L.B.N.S.B.R.W | DNR
Tamarack Lake | C4 | concrete | C.N | DNR
Upper Pine Lake | B1 | concrete | C.N.S | DNR

**Fish Species:** 

**Administrator:** 
- DNR – MN Dept of Natural Resources
- MN DOT – MN Dept of Transportation
- USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USGS – U.S. Geological Survey
- USACE – U.S. Corps of Engineers
- NPS – National Park Service

**Map Grid:**
- E1 – A3, E2 – A4, E3 – E4, E4 – A5
- D1 – D2, D2 – D3, D3 – D4, D4 – E1
- C1 – C2, C2 – C3, C3 – C4, C4 – C5
- B1 – B2, B2 – B3, B3 – B4
- A1 – A2, A2 – A3, A3 – A4

- * State Park Sticker Required

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This information is available in alternative formats upon request.